

REMARKS

After entry of this amendment, claims 1-5, 13-24, 29-35, and 37 remain pending. The present amendment is in response to the Decision on Appeal mailed November 17, 2008. Prior to appeal, no claims were allowed and no claims were objected to but indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. The Examiner's Answer withdrew the rejections to claims 11, 13-19, 28, 30, and 37. Accordingly, after the Examiner's Answer, claims 13-19 were allowed and claims 11, 28, 30, and 37 were objected to but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In the Decision on Appeal, the Board reversed the rejection of claims 29 and 36, and thus these claims are also objected to but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. The present amendment places all claims in condition for allowance based on claims that were allowed after appeal, and thus the amendment should be entered pursuant to MPEP 1214.06.

Specifically, Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the features of claims 10 and 11, thus placing claim 1 in condition for allowance. Claims 2-5 depend from claim 1 and thus are in condition for allowance as well. Claims 13-19 stand allowed. Applicants have amended claim 20 to include the features of claims 27-28, thus placing claim 20 in condition for allowance. Claims 21-24 depend from claim 20 and thus are in condition for allowance as well. Claim 29 has been rewritten in independent form, and thus is in condition for allowance. Claim 30 depends from claim 29 and thus is in condition for allowance as well. Claim 31 has been rewritten to include the features of claim 36, and thus is in condition for allowance. Claims 32-35 and 37 depend from claim 31, and thus are in condition for allowance as well.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/5681-03600/LJM.

Respectfully submitted,

/Lawrence J. Merkel/
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